



Janet Scott, TBU Ed. Services Officer and organizer, Ginger Major, Bateman, and Elizabeth Almeida, Abbey Park, are shown with Santa at the 2nd Annual Childrens' Christmas Party. Over 250 members and children attended the event at Lil' Monkeys in Burlington and a trailer of non-perishable food was donated to the Partnership West Food Bank.

OSSTF Provincial Assembly Convenes March 7-10th

OSSTF/FEESO conducts an Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) with representatives from all its bargaining units in March at the Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto.

District 20 Halton Secondary Teachers will be represented by Brad Fisher, Jim Young, Janet Scott, Cindy Gage, Bonnie Cummings, Steve Spisak, Colin Post, Doug Thompson, Eugeni Nikolov, Rod Whate, Stephanie Briggs, Michelle Neuman, Kelly McCarthy, Victor Disyak and Steve Drobnych.

Over 500 delegates will pass motions, vote on policy, and adopt the OSSTF/FEESO budget.

B.C. Teachers Win Charter Challenge

Contract Restoration and Damages Awarded

Pierre Côté, OSSTF/FEESO General Secretary

On January 27th the British Columbia Teachers' Federation won an important court battle in their fight against government intrusions into the collective bargaining process and their collective agreements. The legal fight began in 2002, when the Liberals enacted laws to give schools flexibility in organizing classes. That legislation, Bill 28, removed class-size limits and class composition from the collective bargaining process.

The government argued that the new legislation was constitutional because it held "good faith consultation" with the union after the 2011 decision and because the prohibition on class size and composition bargaining was time-limited and would be repealed in June 2013. The judge rejected those arguments and said the government did not negotiate in good faith during the 2012 school year.

Justice Susan Griffin said in her judgment in the long-running court battle that the government must pay damages for extending to the end of June 2013 changes to collective bargaining that she had already ruled unconstitutional. The provincial government must pay the B.C. Teachers' Federation \$2 million in damages and retroactively restore class-size and composition language that was stripped from the teachers' contract in 2002, the B.C. Supreme Court has ruled. The government is considering whether or not it will launch an appeal.

For those interested, the ruling can be found at http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdbtxt/SC/14/01/2014BCS_C012lcor1.htm and more information can be found on the BCTF website at <http://www.bctf.ca>. BCTF will also be posting a detailed analysis of the ruling in the near future.

OSSTF/FEESO's Bill 115 Court Challenge Update

As a reminder, OSSTF/FEESO's court challenge against Bill 115 will be heard in June 2014. If you have questions please contact the OSSTF/FEESO General Secretary, Pierre Côté at 1-800-267-7867.

Grid Movement and Your Pay

Grid movement will occur on January 30th, the 97th day of the school year. Hence, salary increases due to grid movement will not be reflected on the January 24th pay, will be partially reflected on the February 7th pay, and will be fully reflected on the February 21st pay.

AMP: HDSB Meeting with Unions

The Board has requested a meeting with representatives from all Board employee groups involving OSSTF, ETFO, CUPE and the HDEAA.

This meeting will take place at the OSSTF District 20 Office on February 4th in order to unveil "positive" changes to the AMP.

As yet, we have no indication of what those changes are.

Long Term Disability Coverage Termination

You may qualify to cancel your long term disability (LTD) insurance if you meet one of the following criteria as set out by your insurance policy.

Scenario 1 - You are eligible for a 64% unreduced service pension, or you are within either the later of 80 working days, or the expiration of sick leave of being eligible for a 64% unreduced service pension.

Scenario 2 - You have notified both the Teachers' Pension Plan and your board of your scheduled retirement date, which is within 80 working days. Please note that you are eligible for coverage under the OSSTF Provincial LTD Plan up to the date of your retirement. You are not required to cancel your coverage simply because you have notified your board of your intention to retire.

Scenario 3 - You have reached the end of the month in which you turned age 65 or you are within either the later of 80 working days, or the expiration of sick leave of reaching the end of the month in which you turn age 65.

Based on the criteria listed above, if wish to termination your LTD coverage and discontinue your premium deductions, please contact John Watson @ the District Office. Take note of the supporting documentation required in order to process your request.

Key Dates

Critical Path for Secondary Staffing September 2014

February 14: Deadline for requesting a leave of absence for September, 2014.

February 28: Deadline for the following requests for September, 2014:

- Voluntary transfer/exchange
- Extension of a leave of absence
- Reduced assignment
- Extension of reduced assignment
- Consideration for increased assignment
- Intent to return to employment status from a reduced assignment

- Intent to return from a leave of absence

February 28: Seniority lists received in schools.

March 3-31: Teachers may appeal their placement on the seniority list

March 4: E-learning ad. Open to all permanent and probationary teachers. No top-up allowed.

March 6: Deadline for incumbent heads to indicate to principal whether or not they wish to continue with their headship responsibilities for 2014-15.

March 17: Headship ad posted.

March 19: Preliminary Staff Allocation meeting. Schools receive their initial allocation of sections, in order to begin the in-school staffing process.

March 21: Teachers who are potentially redundant receive written notification.

March 24: Headship ad posted.

March 28: Teachers at Gary Allan High School who may be asked to change program or location notified by principal.

March 28/31: Teachers who are potentially surplus to school notified by principal.

OSSTF District 20 Teachers

3410 South Service Road, Burlington L7N 3T2

Brad Fisher, President

Jim Young, Chief Negotiator

John Watson, Health and Benefits Officer

Lorie Wiersma, Executive Assistant

Phone: (905) 332-1228

Fax: (905) 335-9220

www.osstfd20.ca

<https://twitter.com/OSSTF20>